

Wintering bald eagles at Silverwood Lake.

Eagle viewing tours offered.
Call park for reservations.

Printed by the



All proceeds go to the park's educational programs.

California Park Service
The Resources Agency
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Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area
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Hesperia, CA 92345-9799
(619) 389-2303

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\$100

Silverwood Lake

State Recreation Area

Picnicking, camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, bicycling, waterskiing and boating are recreational activities available at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area.

Silverwood Lake is surrounded by San Bernardino National Forest. It is a scenic 30-mile drive from the city of San Bernardino on I-15 and winding State Highway 138 or a 16-mile drive from Hesperia on Arrowhead Lake Road, Highway 173 and Highway 138.

The park is open year-round. Day use areas are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 1 - September 30 and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. October 1 - March 31. Miller Canyon and Cleghorn day use areas are subject to winter seasonal closures.

Picnicking

Family picnic sites at the Black Oak and Cleghorn day use areas are accessible by car. Miller Canyon is accessible by car four miles east of the main park entrance on Highway 138. Serrano Beach in Miller Canyon is also accessible by boat or by the hiking-bicycling trail. All picnic areas have tables, barbeque grills and restrooms nearby.

The Live Oak, Chamise, and Sycamore picnic areas can be reached only by boat. No barbeque grills, cooking stoves or open fires are permitted due to high fire hazard. Bring your own drinking water.

Three group picnic campground areas, each accommodating up to 80 people and 20 cars, are located in Miller Canyon. They are equipped with tables, barbeques and restrooms and may be reserved in advance through the park office.

Camping

The Mesa Campground has 136 family campsites, each with table, barbeque grill and fire ring. There are also restrooms and showers. Seven campsites for bicyclists and hikers, and five campsites modified for wheelchair accessibility are available.

The three group camps in the West Fork area

will accommodate 120 persons and 30 cars each. They have barbeques, tables, restrooms, and showers.

Reservations are recommended during the busy summer season and for spring and fall weekends. For camping and reservation information, call 1-800-444-7275.

- Checkout time for all campsites is 12 noon daily.
- Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Generators may not be operated between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- Use the fire rings for fires. Ground fires are not allowed. Down wood may not be gathered. Campers must bring their own firewood or it may be purchased at the entrance station.
- Do not put trash, bottles, or rocks in the fire rings.

Fishing

Several brushy areas were left uncleared when the lake was filled to provide fish habitat. Catfish, blue gill, large-mouth bass, striped bass and crappie are among the more common fish in the lake. Many coves are easily accessible by boat, although shore fishing can be equally successful.

Fishing seasons vary according to the species of fish. Striped bass are caught mostly in the spring and summer months. The Dam and Miller Canyon are good spots to catch "stripers." Large-mouth bass are generally caught in the spring months and also on warm days in the fall. Crappie hide in secluded areas in the shelter of submerged stumps or brush and are caught throughout the year. Late afternoons and evenings are the best time to catch channel catfish. The Cleghorn area and other coves are good angling places for these fish during the warm months of the year. Rainbow trout are caught year-round. The Miller Canyon section of the lake is a good area for these fish.

The marina store provides a scale to weigh prize fish. Anglers can also rent boats and rent fishing supplies at the store.

A California sport fishing license is required at Silverwood Lake, and all other State Fish and Game regulations apply.



Be a Safe Boater

The maximum speed limit on the lake is 35 mph. The limit is 5 mph within 100 feet of a swimmer, within 200 feet of a float, dock or launch ramp, beach frequented by swimmers, within the fishing areas (see map), and the entirety of the Miller Canyon and Cleghorn arms of the lake.

Inboard boats must have adequate mufflers and an automatic water injection system.

Boat traffic in the ski zone is one way, counter-clockwise.

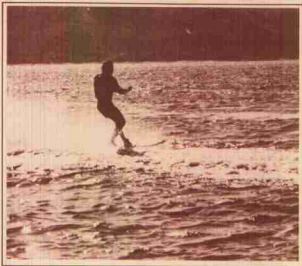
Regulations require that you carry enough personal flotation devices for each person aboard, including skiers.

Boats must be off the lake at sunset.

Additional boating safety information is available at the entrance station.

Vessel operators must be at least 12 years of age.

Courtesy Marine Examinations (CMEs) are provided by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliaries on request.



Waterskiing Rules

Only aquaplanes or water skis are permitted. Tow lines cannot exceed 90 feet. Inflatables (rubber rafts, tubes, etc.) must not be towed.

Waterskiing is permitted only during daylight hours.

In addition to the boat operator, someone at least 12 years old must be in the towing boat, in a position to watch the skier.

Skiers must have a flotation device provided for them.

Unattended skis, ropes or other items should not be left in the lake as they are hazardous to other boaters.

A ski flag is required.

Swimming

Lifeguards are on duty daily during the summer from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend. Be safe. Stay in swim areas. Do not swim in boating areas. Be cautious when using inflatable rafts during high winds.

Concession-operated snack bars and beach equipment rentals are located at the swimming areas at Sawpit Canyon and Cleghorn Cove.

Wildlife

Silverwood Lake's wildlife reflects the diverse habitats found in the park. Nearly 130 species of birds have been observed. Juncos, mountain chickadees, and Steller's jays are commonly seen in the forests of Ponderosa pine, big-cone Douglas-fir and incense cedar. They are found at higher elevations on the southeast side of the lake towards Miller Canyon. Acorn woodpeckers and western bluebirds are common among the black oaks. Chaparral areas northeast of the lake are composed mostly of chamise, scrub oak and manzanita, and provide a home for brown and rufous-sided towhees, California thrashers, wrentits, and mountain and California quail.

California ground squirrels, desert woodrats, and white-footed mice also inhabit the chaparral. Predators include coyotes, bobcats, ring-tailed cats, great horned owls, and western rattlesnakes.

Silverwood Lake offers refuge to many migratory waterfowl: Canada geese, common mergansers, ruddy ducks and bufflehead. Osprey and bald eagles fish the lake in winter. Great blue herons and snowy egrets live near the shore. A comprehensive bird list may be picked up at the entrance station or Visitor Center.



State Water Project

Silverwood Lake is the highest lake of the California State Water Project. At an elevation of 3,378 feet, Silverwood has a storage capacity of 25 billion gallons of water. Cedar Springs Dam blocks the path through the San Bernardino Mountains cut by the West Fork of the Mojave River.

The California State Water Project is a "multiple purpose" project, supplying water and electricity for agriculture, cities and industry, and flood control. Other benefits of the project are recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement and protection.

The Water Project originates in Northeastern California with three recreational lakes in the upper Feather River Basin. The water in Silverwood Lake originally fell as snow or rain in the Feather River watershed more than 680 miles to the north. Oroville Dam, the key water storage facility of the project, stores the vast snowmelt and rain runoff from the Sierra Nevada and releases the water in regulated amounts.

From Oroville, the water flows down the Feather and Sacramento Rivers to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta where it flows into the California Aqueduct. Through the North Bay Aqueduct, water is delivered to Napa County, where much of the water is used to irrigate farmlands. The South Bay Aqueduct carries water to the Southern San Francisco Bay Area, serving Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. The water then flows down the California Aqueduct, which winds along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley to San Luis Reservoir. Water then flows south, down the valley to the foot of the Tehachapi Mountains.

The water is then pumped 1,926 feet in a single stretch, coming into Southern California on the south side of the Tehachapis, where the aqueduct splits into two branches. The west branch serves the Los Angeles Basin and coastal areas of Ventura County; the east branch serves the Antelope Valley and San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and San Diego Counties. In the Antelope Valley, the Pearblossom Pumping Plant east of Palmdale lifts

the water to a height of 3,480 feet above sea level. From there it flows downhill through the last section of open canal and is piped under the Mojave River and Highway 173 up into Silverwood Lake. The water inlet is located just west of the dam.

Water flows out through the intake towers at the south end of the lake east of the marina and continues its journey southward through the 3.8-mile San Bernardino Tunnel. From there, the water plunges 1,600 feet and spins turbines which generate electricity. After leaving the power plant, some of the water is delivered to contracting agencies; the rest flows on to Lake Perris, the southern terminus of the 444-mile-long California Aqueduct.

History

Native Americans lived in this area before any white settlement. Living in small colonies of 20 - 30 people, members of the Serrano tribe found acorns, piñon nuts, and other native plants in abundance and used them for food and medicine.

The Serrano welcomed the Spanish missionaries who later traveled through the valley.

The lake was named after W. E. "Ted" Silverwood, a Riverside County resident who worked unceasingly for water and soil conservation and to bring water to Southern California.

The Cedar Springs Dam is named after the small town of Cedar Springs which was located in the valley before Silverwood Lake was filled. Founded by homesteaders prior to World War I, the small town of about 200 weekend visitors and residents was dismantled when the State purchased the privately owned property.

Trails

You're invited to enjoy the park's 13 miles of paved hiking and bicycling trails. They explore many scenic spots that cannot be reached by auto.

Bicyclists should ride carefully, watch for sand and debris on pavement, slow down when going around blind curves, and carry drinking water.

Silverwood Lake Data

Surface area	976 acres
Shoreline	13 miles
Maximum depth	225 feet
Elevation	3,378 feet
Temperature	85°F - 100°F (summer) 20°F - 48°F (winter)
Rainfall	39 inches (and some snow)

Please Remember

- Visitors may bring their dogs camping with them; however, they must be leashed during the day and kept in a tent or camper at night. They are not allowed on swim beaches. An additional fee is collected for each dog.

- Fires are permitted only in stoves or fireplaces provided because of the extreme fire danger during much of the year. Ground fires are not allowed. Down wood helps enrich the soil and may not be gathered. Visitors must bring their own firewood or it may be purchased at the entrance station.

- Firearms and fireworks are not allowed in the park.

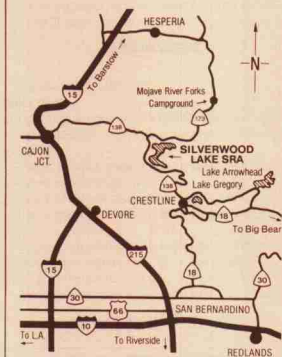
- Poison Oak grows throughout the park. Rangers will be happy to show you what it looks like if you are unfamiliar with it.

- Rattlesnakes are protected and are not hazardous if left alone. Call for a ranger to remove any snakes found in a busy area.

- Silverwood Lake is a domestic water supply. Please do not contaminate it. Use the restrooms.

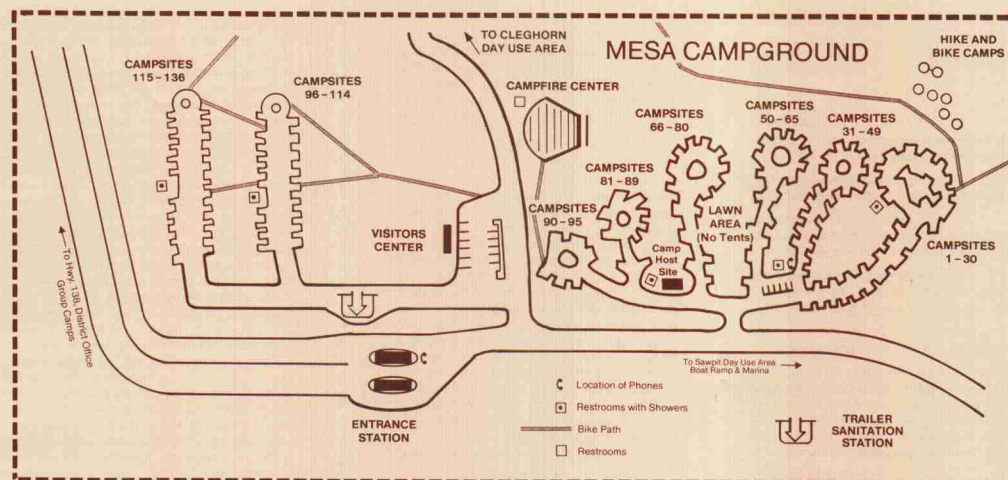
Enjoy your visit to Silverwood Lake and contact any park employee if you have questions or comments.

LOCATION MAP



GENERAL CAMPGROUND RULES

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
Eight-person limit per campsite.
No wood gathering.
Keep tents on dirt. Lawns watered nightly.
Keep all noise within campsite boundaries. Respect neighbors desire for quietness and privacy.
Please keep your campsite litter free and do not put trash in fire rings.



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